



May 12, 2016

Instructional Quality Commission & the California State Board of Education  
1430 N. St., Suite 5111  
Sacramento, CA 94814  
Via Email: [iqc@cde.ca.gov](mailto:iqc@cde.ca.gov); [sbe@cde.ca.gov](mailto:sbe@cde.ca.gov)

Re: Bataan Legacy Historical Society's Recommendations on History/Social Sciences Curriculum Framework (Grade 11, Chapter 16)

Dear Members of the Instructional Quality Commission and the California State Board of Education:

On behalf of the Bataan Legacy Historical Society, I wish to thank the members and staff of the Instructional Quality Commission for their continued help and patience in implementing AB199 to include the role of the Filipinos during World War II in the Philippines in the history curriculum framework. It has been a long and complicated process but in the end I know that it will be worth all the effort because our California students deserve only the best.

I am sending the IQC our recommendations that have yet to be accepted. While we are quite appreciative that many of our recommendations have already been included by the IQC, our intent in asking for these additional points is to provide clarity and context. As you can see, we managed to decrease our word count from 265 to 249 words without compromising the content and scope. Veterans' groups and their descendants from different states are already looking at this history curriculum framework because they are interested in replicating this.

Our recommendations are based on years of research using actual data from the military as well as interviews of veterans and survivors. Our Educational Advisory Group includes members of academia and the military (3 retired U.S. generals), the Philippine Government, city and state officials, teachers and various organizations. It has taken over seventy-one years to include this in the history curriculum framework for high school in the United States. Most of those who fought during WWII in the Philippines have passed on and their legacy grows dimmer with each passing day.

I am urging the Instructional Quality Commission and the State Board of Education to approve the recommendations made by the Bataan Legacy Historical Society in the Grade 11, Chapter 16 section of the history curriculum framework. With your help and support, I am confident that California can lead the rest of the nation in giving light and life to the legacy of our WWII veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cecilia I. Gaerlan".

Cecilia I. Gaerlan  
Executive Director  
Bataan Legacy Historical Society  
(510) 520-8540

### **Bataan Legacy Historical Society Educational Advisory Group**

Dely Alcantara, Ph.D., Exec. Director, Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Foundation, New Mexico

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Sid Valledor, MBA, Author, The Original Writings of Philip Vera Cruz, Filipino-American labor organizer

Comment #	HSSC SMC Approved Text(Summary of Actions 24March2016)	BLHS Comments on HSSC SMC Approved Text	Bataan Legacy Recommended Text
3312	The US army, which included American and Filipino troops, led by General Douglas MacArthur, were unable to defend the territory and strategically retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula. (30)	<b>This version overlooks the fact that majority of the troops were Filipinos. AB199, the legislative mandate for this curriculum revision is about the role of the Filipinos during WWII.</b>	The U.S. Army Forces in the Far East comprised of Americans and a majority of Filipinos, led by General Douglas MacArthur, were unable to defend the territory and strategically retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula. (37)
3313	Although American and Filipino troops lacked ammunition and food, and thousands were sick from malaria and dengue fever, they managed to defend Bataan for 99 days. (26)	<b>The significance of the Battle of Bataan must be stated as it delayed the 50-day timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army, despite massive disease and starvation.</b>	Despite suffering from massive disease and starvation and fighting without any air support, the USAFFE troops delayed Japan's 50-day timetable by defending Bataan for 99 days. (26)
3315	MacArthur fled to Australia during this period, vowing, "I shall return." (11)	<b>"I shall return" does not add value to the framework and continues to perpetuate the MacArthur myth. He did not flee but was ordered to leave for Australia.</b>	We recommend deleting this portion for reasons stated.
3318	On April 9, 1942 General Edward P. King, Jr., US commander of all ground troops in Bataan, surrendered his 76,000 sick and starving troops (American and Filipino) to the Japanese, one of the most grievous defeats in American military history.		On April 9, 1942, General Edward P. King, Jr., Commanding General of Luzon Force, surrendered 75,000 Filipino and American troops. They were forced to march some 60 miles to their prison at Camp O'Donnell with no provisions for food, water

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3319	<p>The captured soldiers were then forced to march more than 60 miles north in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Conditions during the march were brutal. POWs who couldn't keep up due to exhaustion or a lack of food or water, they were beaten, bayoneted, shot, or in some cases, beheaded by Japanese soldiers; approximately 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died along the way. If the POWs survived the grueling trek, they were packed into pre-war boxcars for transport to prison camps. Thousands of soldiers died in the journey and in the camps from sickness and starvation. (139)</p>	<p><b>Majority of the troops died during the march and not during the journey in the boxcars.</b></p> <p><b>The fate of the American soldiers of USAFFE must be included in this curriculum.</b></p>	<p>or shelter. Those who could no longer go on were beaten, bayoneted, shot and in some cases even beheaded by their Japanese captors. Approximately 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Once inside Camp O'Donnell, approximately 20,000 Filipinos and 1600 Americans died. A majority of the American prisoners were later transported in the hulls of unmarked vessels termed as "Hell Ships" to Japan, China, Formosa and Korea where they worked as slave laborers. Thousands died en route and while serving. (128)</p>
	<p>Over the next three years, the US employed an island-hopping strategy to push back the Japanese advance. In February 1945 American and Filipino forces finally recaptured the Bataan Peninsula; Manila was liberated the next month. By the end of the war, approximately 1,000,000 civilians had died and Manila became the second most</p>	<p><b>Thousands of Filipino guerrillas laid the groundwork for the eventual liberation of the Philippines during the 3 years prior to the liberation.</b></p> <p><b>The Capture of Bataan Peninsula is no longer significant at this point (there were no longer any prisoners of war in Bataan).</b></p>	<p>During the next 3 years, Filipinos and Americans formed guerrilla groups in preparation for the liberation. In October 1944, the Battles of Leyte Gulf destroyed the Imperial Japanese Navy. Manila became the second most devastated city in the world after Warsaw following its liberation in March 1945. By the end of the war</p>

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	<p>devastated city in the world after Warsaw. (59)</p> <p>Total Word Count=265</p>	<p><b>The Battles of Leyte Gulf between October 23 to 26, 1944 destroyed the Imperial Japanese Navy leading to the eventual defeat of Japan. It remains as the largest naval battle in U.S. history.</b></p>	<p>approximately 1,000,000 civilians had died. (58)</p> <p>Total Word Count=249</p>

#### References:

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4. The Fall of the Philippines, Ed. By Louis Morton; WWII in the Pacific , Dept. of History, US Military Academy
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6. War Plan Orange by Edward S. Miller
7. Navy Basic War Plan Rainbow #5
8. Congressional Research Service Report for Congress on US Prisoners of War and Civilian American Citizens Captured and Interned by Japan in WWII, July 2001.
9. Nimitz Graybook
10. Proceedings of the Conference WWII in the Philippines, Remembering 60 Years After, National Historical Commission of the Philippines
11. U.S. Army in World War II – The War in the Pacific, Strategy and Command – The First Two Years by Louis Morton, Center of Military History, U.S. Army